

External Funding Bulletin – term 2 **December 2007**

This bulletin is produced on a termly basis with each bulletin having a different theme.

Science and Technology

This term's bulletin looks at sources of additional funding which may be of interest to your school for science and technology projects. Funding is available from various organisations including national scientific bodies and a number of private companies with an interest in supporting science projects as part of their programme of corporate social responsibility.

The various grants cover a wide range of science subject areas and they include grant schemes and competitions. The application processes and timescales vary widely from programme to programme. Details of the types of projects which are eligible and how to apply are included here, along with some examples school projects which have been successfully funded in the past.

The following information is not an exhaustive list of funding opportunities for this area of work but rather a selection of some of the current schemes which may be of interest. If you have a particular project in mind for which you require some additional funds please contact me and I would be happy to research the relevant grant programmes.

I can be contacted on 01275 884 336 or e-mail elisabeth.roberts@n-somerset.gov.uk .

Elisabeth Roberts
Projects and Funding Officer
Extended Schools Team

Grants

British Ecological Society Education Grants

Grants are available under this programme designed to enable teachers make the teaching of ecology more innovative, interesting and exciting. Grants are for both primary and secondary projects. These include

- Innovation and Research Grants offering up to £750 to help teachers develop creative approaches to teaching ecology, both within and outside the classroom.

- Field Equipment Grants of up to £500 are available to help equip science departments with the resources to facilitate high quality learning outside the classroom.

- Teacher Attendance at BES meetings Grants of up to £250 are available to cover the cost of teachers attending meetings and courses organised by the British Ecological Society, where this cost cannot be met by the school.

Deadlines are 31st January, 30th April and 30th September. Guidelines and application forms for each scheme are available on the British Ecological Society website

Website :

www.britishecologicalsociety.org

Tel: 020 8871 9797

Holmes Hines Memorial Fund

Small grants are available for science and engineering activities for which public funds are not available.

Past grants include

- Purchase of alternative energy experiment kits for a primary school

- Equipment for a primary school wildlife club

Applications can be submitted at any time and there is no standard application form. Enquiries should be sent to the Fund's administrator, Jackie Gray, at

EPSRC Finance,
Polaris House,
North Star Avenue,
Swindon SN2 1ET.

or holmeshines@epsrc.ac.uk

Further information is also available at www.epsrc.ac.uk

National Science and Engineering Week Small Grant Scheme for Schools

The British Association for the Advancement of Science offers grants for a number of schools to organise their own science and engineering events as part of National Science and Engineering Week each year. It is intended for schools who would otherwise find it difficult to take part and those with a high proportion of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The majority of grants are £150 per school but a smaller number of grants at £500 will also be made.

Examples of grants include

- inviting a speaker to the school
- arranging a field trip to a local science centre, museum or university science department
- setting up interactive displays, demonstrations and investigations for other classes, for parents or for other schools

Further information is available on the website www.the-ba.net .

The deadline for this year has now passed but keep an eye on the website for details of future grants.

For any queries email nsew@the-ba.net or call 020 7019 4963.

Institute of Physics & Science and Technology Facilities Council School Grants Scheme

This scheme offers grants up to £500 to schools for small scale projects and events linked to the teaching and promotion of physics. Both primary and secondary schools can apply.

Examples of previous grants awarded include

- Grant towards the costs of a school astronomy group
- Two days of 'our place in the universe' workshops
- An infant school cross curricular two week project on space and astronomy
- Science enrichment week at a secondary school

Further guidance and application forms are available on the website. Applications can be submitted at any time and must be submitted by e-mail.

Website: www.iop.org/activity/education

Tel: 020 7470 4800

Email: schoolgrants@iop.org

Science and Technology Facilities Council Small Awards Scheme

This scheme offers grants for small local or pilot projects between £500 and £15,000 in the following areas of work

- particle physics;
- nuclear physics;

- space, ionospheric, solar and planetary science;
- astronomy;
- astrophysics;
- cosmology

Grants can cover materials, salaries and travel. Partnership projects are particularly welcomed.

The next closing date for applications is 11 April 2008.

Detailed guidance and an application form are available on the website www.scitech.ac.uk.

Tel: 01793 442 098.

Royal Society Partnership Grants

This scheme offers grants up to £3000 to support teachers, scientists and engineers working together to inspire young people.

Projects funded include

- £1694 to a special school for a project for a small group of pupils to work with a scientist from Kodak Ltd. on a rocket project. The grant covered the cost of a digital video camera and software, so that the pupils could record and analyse the different heights achieved by their prototype pop bottle rockets.

- £1940 for a group of 9 year 11 pupils to spend two days working in the laboratories at Manchester University to develop hydrogen powered buggies.

The deadline for this school year has now passed. Contact the Royal Society via the electronic form on their website if you would be interested in applying to future rounds, or by phone - 020 7451 2500.

Website: www.royalsoc.ac.uk .

Royal Society of Chemistry Education Initiatives Fund

This is a scheme offering small grants for novel educational activities which

- are aimed at school and college students
- contain appropriate chemical science content for the target age group
- are 'novel', as in new to the geographical area

Grants cannot be used for existing activities, room hire, catering or the purchase of equipment which ought to be funded by existing sources of funds. Grants are awarded up to £1,000.

Applications must be submitted by the 31st October each year for funding for the following calendar year. There is no standard application form but guidance on what the application should cover is available on the website.

Website

www.rsc.org/ScienceAndTechnology/AwardsAndFunding/EducationInitiatives

Contact:

Gemma Tobiasen
Assistant Education Manager, Schools and Colleges,
Royal Society of Chemistry,
Burlington House, Piccadilly,
London W1J 0BA
Tel: 020 7440 3345

Royal Society of Chemistry Public Activities Small Grants Scheme

This fund supports activities which promote the public awareness of chemistry and chemical sciences. Schools are eligible to apply for activities and events aimed at or open to the public and/or parents.

Grants for small local activities are up to £250 and organisers of major events.

Activities can include

- Open days
- Public lectures
- Performances of plays
- Activities as part of major science festivals
- Local activities

An application form is available on the website and applications can be submitted at any time. Funds are allocated on a first come first served basis from January to December each year.

Website:

www.rsc.org/ScienceAndTechnology/AwardsAndFunding/SmallGrants

Contact:

Pauline Meakins,
External Promotion Manager
Royal Society of Chemistry,
Thomas Graham House, Science Park,
Milton Road,
Cambridge
CB4 0WF
Tel: 01223 432266

Science and Plants for Schools (SAPS)

This organisation offers grants to schools for light banks, brassica kits, and plants DNA investigation kits. Further details are available on the SAPS website. Application forms can be obtained by contacting their office through the following e-mail address saps@homerton.cam.ac.uk.

Tel: 01223 507168

Website: www-saps.plantsci.cam.ac.uk

Wellcome Trust Arts Awards

The Arts Awards support projects that engage the public with biomedical science through the arts. All art forms can be covered and projects can involve adults and/or young people. Projects should involve the creation of a new artistic work in collaboration with a scientist.

In the small-medium sized awards category grants are available up to £30,000. Application forms and detailed guidance are available on the website.

Previous projects receiving an award include one involving three secondary schools exploring the role of drawing in helping young people to understand the concepts of biomedical science.

The next two deadlines for application are 15th February, 2nd May and 18th July 2008. Decisions are made around 3 months after the deadline.

Contact:
Arts Awards
Wellcome Trust
Gibbs Building
215 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE, UK

Tel: 020 7611 7222
Email: arts@wellcome.ac.uk
Website: www.wellcome.ac.uk

Competitions and bursaries

BECTA ICT Excellence Awards

The ICT Excellence Awards is a scheme for schools which rewards whole school excellence in ICT. The scheme identified schools with outstanding or innovative approaches to ICT which benefit their whole

community, inside and outside the school building.

There are eight award categories:

- Best whole-school
- Assessment
- Curriculum
- Extending learning opportunities
- Inclusion
- Leadership and management
- Learning and teaching
- Support for schools

In this year's awards the 'Best whole school' category winners received £6,000 each, with runners-up receiving £2,000. All other category winners (except the 'Support for schools' category) received £2,000 each, with runners-up receiving £1,000 each.

North Somerset Council's Children and Young People's Services ICT Strategy Team won a runner-up award in the 'Support for Schools' category this year.

Applications have not yet opened for the 2008 awards but you can register your interest via the website and BECTA will notify you when the 2008 round is launched.

Contact:
BECTA
Millburn Hill Road
Science Park
Coventry
CV4 7JJ
Tel: 024 7641 6994

Email: becta@becta.org.uk
Website: <http://awards.becta.org.uk>

Nuffield Science Bursaries – Schools and Colleges

This scheme offers up to 1000 funded places for first year post-16 science students to undertake placements in industry or at universities to get an insight into the world of scientific research.

Students work alongside practising scientists for 4-6 week placements during the summer holidays and are given specific projects to carry out.

Students can either arrange their own placement or apply for a place which has already been organised by Nuffield.

Contact the Regional Co-ordinator to register an interest:

SETPPOINT Devon & Cornwall
Fourth Floor
Queen's House
Little Queen Street
Exeter EX4 3LJ

Tel: 01392 215501

E-mail: paul.hartley@connexions-cd.org.uk

Website: www.nuffieldfoundation.org

Rolls Royce Science Prize

This is an annual awards programme offering prizes from £1,000 to £15,000. The competition is open to all teachers of science for projects aimed at 3-19 year olds.

Register your interest using the online form. Regional support teams are available to advise on proposals. The closing date for entries is 29th February 2008.

The top projects submitted to this year's awards programme include

- A primary school project researching the water cycle by studying local water supplies and looking at the run-off from local farms.
- A primary school project to develop science teaching resources specifically to support children for whom English is not their first language.
- A secondary school project involving a team of staff and pupils being trained in the use of 3D adventure game software. The team then develop computer games based on scientific concepts.

Contacts for further information

Vaughan Lewis - Project Manager
Rolls-Royce Science Prize
Rolls-Royce plc
65 Buckingham Gate
London SW1E 6AT

Email: vaughan.lewis@rolls-royce.com

Tel: 0800 028 0759

<http://science.rolls-royce.com/>